REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Notice of Allowance, the examiner's proposed amendments to paragraph [02] of the specification as originally filed are being substituted as disclosed herein.

The undersigned has learned that U.S. Application No. 10/094,408 has issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,923,044.

The undersigned has learned that U.S. Application No. 10/094,411 should be pending, instead of abandoned. A petition to withdraw from a holding of abandonment was mailed July 29, 2004, and appears to be pending in the petitions branch.

CONCLUSION

Entry of this amendment is respectfully urged since it merely cures a formal defect in the specification and does not touch the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

George B. F. Yee

Reg. No. 37,478

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor

San Francisco, California 94111-3834

Tel: 650-326-2400 Fax: 415-576-0300

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